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- (a) sending a tag read request from an interrogator tag reader;
- (b) receiving tag response signals from tags within an interrogation zone of the tag reader, the tag response signals including the tag identification numbers; and
- (c) sending a first or second command code from the interrogator tag reader to each of the tags which responded to the read request, the first command code causing a tag to perform read or write transactions, and the second command code causing a tag to enter an inactive mode, each command code being individually directed to one of the responding tags, wherein the first and second command codes are calculated from a tag transmission cycle and only a portion of the tag identification number.

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A method of controlling actions of radio frequency identification (RFID) tags, the method comprising:

- (a) sending a tag command from an interrogator tag reader, the tag command including:
 - (i) a read request, and
 - (ii) a plurality of parameters of the read request including the communications data rate of the tag reader, the number of time slots within each transmission cycle, and the maximum number of transmission cycles that the tag is allowed to broadcast in; and
- (b) a tag receiving a tag command and responding to the read request using each of the received parameters,
wherein the tag responds to the read request in one of a plurality of time slots associated with consecutive transmission cycles.

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A method according to claim 11 further comprising:

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- (d) sending a read bypass command from the tag reader; and
- (e) the tag receiving the read bypass command, and if the read bit is set to the second logic level, the read bypass command causes the tag to transmit its identification data and enter a processing loop.

Cancel claims 7 and 15-19.

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Add new claim 29 as follows:

--29. (New) A method of controlling actions of radio frequency identification (RFID) tags, each of the tags including a read bit, a tag identification number, and data in a fast read field, the method comprising:

(a) sending a tag command from an interrogator tag reader, the tag command including:

(i) a fast read request, and

(ii) at least one parameter of the read request;

(b) a tag receiving a tag command and responding to the fast read request using the at least one received parameter, the tag response including at least the tag identification number and the data in the fast read field; and

(c) setting the read bit to a first logic level to allow the tag to respond to the fast read request in the tag command, or setting the read bit to a second logic level to prevent the tag from responding to the fast read request in the tag command.--

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 8-14 and 20-29 are pending. Claims 6 and 10 were amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention. Claim 13 was amended to provide a proper antecedent basis for the "read bit." Claims 7 and 15-19 were canceled. New claim 29 was added to further define the invention. For at least the reasons set forth below, Applicants believe that all pending claims are patentable over the applied references.

As a preliminary matter, it is presumed that the Sharpe patent referred to in the paragraph numbered 10 of the Office Action is 5,621,735, not 5,927,779. It is also presumed that "col. 7, lines 12-28" on page 7, line 6 of the Office Action refers to the Conrad et al. patent.

Non-Prior Art Issues (Claim Objections)

The Examiner objected to the dependency of claim 13. In response, claim 13 was amended to provide a proper antecedent basis for the "read bit."